

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

September 13, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, George Huntington, Dave Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, Toby Strout, Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst, Caleb Steiner (new member), Janice Lilly, Ted Mendoza,

Regrets: Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

**Public comment:**

Buff Brown from Bloomington Transportation Options for People spoke about the City's transportation budget, specifically focusing on the scale and cost of the proposed roundabouts.

The 17<sup>th</sup> and Arlington roundabout will serve 10,000 cars/day; Sare and Rogers 15,000 cars/day. He gave examples of other roundabouts that are smaller in size but handle a higher volume of cars.

He also expressed concern that the city is exhausting all of its federal transportation funds for these projects, and will not be able to meet our goal of becoming a Platinum Bike community by 2016. This funding comes from federal sources that could be used for bike and ped infrastructure

Dave R. suggested that BCOS write a letter critiquing the budget and asking for the priorities to be reexamined.

Buff will share a draft set of comments with Toby, and she will use this information to compose a letter from BCOS to the Mayor and Council reflecting BCOS's questions about the scale and cost of the proposed projects, and their impact on the community's desire for a balanced transportation system.

BCOS voted unanimously to share this letter with the Council and the Mayor.

**Announcements**

\*Dave R. reported that the Platinum Bike Task Force is wrapping up its report and there should be a draft to review by September. The Deer Task Force is also

beginning to draw some conclusions—namely, the deer population is severely impacting the Griffy Lake watershed, and deer are also impacting the social carrying capacity of the community. Dave will soon share the results of a survey that was done regarding how deer impact the community.

\*Janice announced that 3 groups will do the Northwest Institute discussion course “Menu for the Future.” This includes 6 sessions, to begin in early October.

\*The USGBC has a webinar this Thursday. Indiana Historic Landmarks is doing a window restoration workshop in Bedford tonight—Ted suggested that we try to have more events like these locally.

\*Maggie announced the upcoming Simply Living Fair on September 10.

\*Jacqui talked about the B-Line opening celebration and B-Line Express event, all occurring on September 8.

\*Cynthia announced an upcoming 350.org event on September 24. BCOS may want to see if there’s a way to get involved. She’ll look into it and send details.

**Approval of Minutes:** the July minutes were approved unanimously.

**Presentation by Drew Wood, MCCSC:**

Drew is in charge of water and energy efficiency efforts at the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC). He focuses on conservation efforts, on working with utilities to make sure they’re getting the best rates. They’ve been very successful so far—the program began in March 2010 and has already saved \$1.6m.

According to the database they use to track all energy usage, the MCCSC would have used 240k MMBTU, but with the program used only 150k MMBTU.

What were the top methods to achieve these savings?

- 1) Addressing HVAC efficiency—Drew has focused on building relationships with facilities manager to find ways to reduce usage in partnership with Honeywell. They have reduced run times in hot and cold weather; ensured that equipment is running as efficiently as possible; and have rezoned buildings. They are now able to schedule when systems are on in different areas of the building instead of turning all systems on at once.
- 2) Remotely shutting down computers when students aren’t there.
- 3) Closer review of utility bills—finding errors on bill, tracking more carefully that charges are correct.
- 4) Tracking humidity in different areas of buildings to make sure mold/mildew are not a problem.
- 5) Identifying leaks.

BHSN has saved 24% compared to the baseline, and BHSS has saved 41%.

The MCCSC has entered the National Building Competition; Jackson Creek Middle School is in the top three performers nationwide.

What are next steps? They've done most of what they can with tweaking HVAC systems. Need to focus more on classroom behavior modification, and examining what uses can be eliminated. They'll also begin introducing concepts into the curriculum—encouraging kids to bring this information back to their own homes. He plans to coordinate with Amanda Figolah and Jean Schick and other teachers interested in these issues.

Energy Education, Inc has provided the background info that allows the Corporation to achieve these savings. The MCCSC pays \$32,000 each month for the contract for 48 months.

They have not yet looked at ways to improve fuel efficiency in their fleet. Their busses all have GPS units so they can track how they are used, so this may provide opportunities for future improvement.

#### **BCOS Budget**

BCOS interns—there is no money for interns this fall, and BCOS's budget was cut in the 2012 budget. Dave R. said he is willing ask for more money in ESD's budget for BCOS to have an intern—Cynthia will prepare a list of needs and estimated costs.

Future needs: trainings for BCOS members, additional money for interns

Other possible uses of funds for 2011: support for Food Policy Council assessment efforts (approved already up to \$100); sponsor urban agriculture tour as part of Food for Thought week in the fall (possibly \$300?); rainbarrel kits; support for the public roll-out of the Green Network News website.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve \$225 for the Food for Thought event.

**Pizza X composting initiative:** Pizza X has proposed a composting initiative and is asking BCOS to co-sponsor it. The group voted unanimously to support this effort.

The rainbarrel initiative was tabled until next month.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.